

Central Indiana Regional Development Authority
Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2018
1:00 p.m.
MIBOR Board Room
1912 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Committee Members Present, Representing Quorum:

Tavonna Askew, City of Indianapolis Representative
Keith Lauter, City of Greenwood Representative
Bill Sheldrake, City of Indianapolis Representative
Mitch Frazier, City of Westfield Representative

Others Present:

Anna Gremling, Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Sean Northup, MPO
Taylor Firestine, MPO
Chris Steinmetz, City of Indianapolis, Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC)
Philip Roth, Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA)

1. ***Welcome and Introductions***

Tavonna Askew called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and introductions were made around the room.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

2. ***Meeting Minutes***

MOTION by Bill Sheldrake to approve meeting minutes from August 23, 2018, SECOND by Keith Lauter.

3. **Resolution 2018-RDA-003 Legal MOU**

Chris Steinmetz described the MOU's latest iterations based on feedback from board members and the City of Indianapolis. Legal services will be provided by the City with no fee, with the option for the CIRDA to enter into an agreement in the course of litigation.

Discussion ensued between **Tavonna Askew**, **Chris Steinmetz**, and **Anna Gremling** on specifics.

MOTION by Keith Lauter to approve Resolution 2018-RDA-003, SECOND by Bill Sheldrake.

4. **Resolution 2018-RDA-004 Website Maintenance**

Anna Gremling described background information and intent of creating a standalone website for the CIRDA as a means of improving public access and transparency, especially in anticipation of future funds and/or projects. Matchbook Creative is the same firm the MPO uses for the agency's website. The agreement would provide services through FY 2020.

Bill Sheldrake questioned whether the total not to exceed amount of \$3,600 was for 2019 and 2020 separately, or totaled for both years. **Anna Gremling** confirmed that the not to exceed amount was for both years total. **Mitch Frazier** asked if the agreement's funds derived from grant funding or local match dues. **Anna Gremling** responded that it is being funded through local match dues. **Frazier** added that he would like to meet and discuss how to best leverage the website for the benefit of the CIRDA.

MOTION by Bill Sheldrake to approve Resolution 2018-RDA-004, SECOND by Mitch Frazier.

5. **Resolution 2018-RDA-005 RDA Audit**

Anna Gremling reviewed the three mistakes noted in the CIRDA's 2017 audit presented at the August meeting. She recognized **Keith Lauter** for his expertise in completing the 2017 audit as well as negotiating a lower standard price to cover the CIRDA's 2018 audit expenses.

Chris Steinmetz reminded board members that the resolution presented at the August meeting ratified the letter of engagement with London Witte Group (LWG), while this resolution is now accepting the audit's findings and authorizing Board Chair Chris Pryor to sign.

For the record, a typo was noted on the meeting agenda distributed to board members and guests. This resolution was misidentified as 2018-RDA-002 but should read 2018-RDA-005.

Tavonna Askew suggested that LWG present their audit findings directly to the board in 2019.

MOTION by Keith Lauter to approve Resolution 2018-RDA-005, SECOND by Bill Sheldrake.

STATUS REPORTS

6. **Financial Report**

Sean Northup distributed the latest financial report and discussed overall themes. **Anna Gremling** mentioned that member invoices have been drafted and would be mailed to elected officials in the next week or two; Anna agreed to copy CIRDA representatives. Since Westfield and Greenwood are current on dues, Indianapolis will pay its revised amount. Carmel will pay either the new or old amount. If Carmel pays old dues amount, the city will be credited in 2019.

Sean Northup noted that unlike years past, the budget will be 100% local match as no grant funds are available at this time. **Anna Gremling** notified the board that she would be meeting soon with Mark Wasky of Indiana Economic Development Corp. on future grant opportunities.

Mitch Frazier asked if the CIRDA had identified a "wish list" of projects and questioned how such a list is developed: "Does the MPO or [CIRDA] board come up with this?" **Anna Gremling** replied that, historically, the MPO has brought ideas to the fore, but would welcome board member ideas moving forward.

7. **Regional Planning Efforts**

Sean Northup and **Anna Gremling** provided the board with an overview of current regional planning efforts. Items discussed included the recently-adopted RDA Strategic Plan completed by Fourth Economy Consulting, CICEO, and a regional revenue stream bill slated for consideration in the General Assembly.

Anna Gremling presented a PowerPoint overview of the Indianapolis MPO's recently-adopted Strategic Plan. Part of the MPO's Strategic Plan identified mechanisms and agencies to lead an updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan, which could be the responsibility of the CIRDA. She noted that a CEDS Plan will need to be completed in the next two years, with evaluation of funding options ongoing.

There was some discussion between **Sean Northup** and **Bill Sheldrake** regarding differences in statute for the Northwest Indiana RDA (created in 2005) and other RDAs throughout the state (created in 2008). **Sheldrake** agreed with **Northup** that the imperatives behind either a Regional Development Plan or a CEDS Plan are the same—there's no need to replicate efforts. **Northup** also mentioned the approaches of peer regions, such as Denver (DRCOG) and Atlanta (ARC), in establishing their economic development districts (EDDs).

Gremling distributed handouts to board members outlining the different organizational structures and functions the MPO is considering following its official move-out and redesignation from the City of Indianapolis. Discussions ensued on the pros and cons of each and the preferred alternative options. **Sheldrake** and **Northup** discussed specifics regarding models from peer regions.

Mitch Frazier and **Sean Northup** discussed the preferred alternative option and CICEO's proposed regional revenue stream bill, touching on taxing authority versus federal grant funds. One couldn't offset the other. **Bill Sheldrake** discussed the term "quality of life" and how these projects tie into essential infrastructure investments that the region's lacking when compared with peers. Anna Gremling added that layering funding pots is a strategy to help move the region ahead.

Tavonna Askew asked what the next steps would be. **Anna Gremling** responded that fundraising for the CEDS Plan will be the agency's focus with CIRDA moving forward into 2019. She estimated that it will take three to six months to initiate fundraising and another 18 months to complete the process. Meanwhile, the MPO will be working toward independence from the City of Indianapolis, regardless of the status of the proposed regional revenue stream bill. Discussion ensued between **Mitch Frazier** and **Tavonna Askew** on fundraising.

8. **2019 Prospective Meeting Dates**

Board members discussed their preferred days of the week and times for holding meetings in 2019. **Taylor Firestine** agreed to follow-up with an email to the board containing a Doodle poll for selecting dates.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

9. **Adjournment**

MOTION by Keith Lauter to adjourn meeting, SECOND by Mitch Frazier.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.